

Message Text

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TO USINT BAGHDAD

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS NOUAKCHOTT
SALT TWO FROM SECSTATE OCT 30

QUOTE

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INFORM CONSULS

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT, DOHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
OCTOBER 30, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. AMBASSADOR SCALI IS QUOTED THIS MORNING AS
HAVING SAID THAT THERE CAN BE SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA UNTIL
ISRAEL WITHDRAWS TO MONDAY NIGHT'S CEASE-FIRE LINES. HAVE
WE CONVEYED THAT TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?

A. NO, AND I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT THAT WAS SAID.

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Q. EGYPT APPARENTLY SAID THAT THERE COULD BE NONE OF THIS

EXCHANGE OF WOUNDED PRISONERS UNLESS THERE WAS A RETURN TO THE OCTOBER 22ND LINES. IS THAT WHAT WE UNDERSTAND THE POSITION TO BE, AND HOW ARE THESE LINES DETERMINED?

A. WELL, AS I SAID HERE YESTERDAY, OR ATTEMPTED TO SAY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FROM THIS DISTANCE TO DEFINE THE ON-THE-GROUND SITUATION WITH ANY PRECISION. IT DOES SEEM CLEAR THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL MAKE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ISSUE OF PRISONERS AND THE POSITIONS ON THE GROUND. AND THIS MATTER

HAS YET TO BE RESOLVED.

Q. YOU SAID A PRISONER EXCHANGE IS A PRIORITY ITEM, IF NOT THE FIRST PRIORITY ITEM TO FOLLOW A CEASE-FIRE? I DON'T REMEMBER YOU CONDITIONING IT TO TERRITORIAL DEFINITION LAST WEEK. IS THIS A NEW CONDITION?

A. WELL, I CAN'T SAY THAT IT IS A NEW CONDITION INTERPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT CLEARLY THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF VIEW NOW BETWEEN THE ISRAELI SIDE AND THE EGYPTIAN SIDE, WHICH BRINGS THE TWO ISSUES TOGETHER, THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND THE POSITIONS OF THE FORCES ON THE GROUND.

I DID SAY AT THAT TIME THAT BASED ON THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD HAD WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WE BELIEVED THAT THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS FROM BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE A MATTER OF PRIORITY IN THE POST CEASE-FIRE PERIOD.

NOW, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT, HOPE IT CAN BE ACHIEVED, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT THERE, AT THE PRESENT TIME, ARE DIFFERENCES ON THE TWO SIDES ON THESE POINTS.

Q. AREN'T YOU THEN IN EFFECT CALLING ON ISRAEL TO LIVE UP TO ITS COMMITMENT TO THAT RESOLUTION?

A. WELL, I CAN'T TAKE THE POSITION OF CALLING ON ONE PARTY TO LIVE UP TO EVERY TERM OF THE RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE OTHER PARTIES HAVE GOT TO DO IT. SO I DON'T THINK THAT I SHOULD BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF CHOOSING

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SIDES HERE, AND CERTAINLY NOT IN A WAY THAT IS GOING TO PREJUDICE POSITIONS WHICH THESE RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ARE GOING TO BE HAVING WITH OUR PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT IN THE TIMES THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS SUGGESTED TO THE SOVIET UNION -- I HOPE I AM QUOTING IT CORRECTLY -- THAT THE TALKS TAKE PLACE IN

GENEVA. HAS THIS PROPOSAL BEEN MADE?

A. IT IS NOT A PROPOSAL. THERE IS NO AGREEMENT UPON WHERE A NEGOTIATION WOULD BE HELD. THAT WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY, BUT IT IS NOT ONE PLACE ON WHICH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED.

Q. YOU SAID THAT YOU COULD NOT FORECAST WITH ANY CONFIDENCE WHETHER YOU WOULD EXPECT AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS AT THE END OF THIS WEEK. I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED ON THAT. DO NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN AT A POINT WHEN THEY ARE

ANNOUNCED AND EVERYBODY GETS INTO A CERTAIN CITY AND STARTS WORKING OR HAVE THEY ALREADY BEGUN IN THIS CITY?

A. WHEN WE TALK, OR AT LEAST WHEN I TALK, ABOUT A SET F NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH IS WHAT I MEAN, I'M TALKING ABOUT A PLACE WHERE THE PARTIES, UNDER SOME AGREED PROCEDURE, CAN COME TOGETHER TO MEET. AND THIS IS WHAT WE HOPE CAN BE ACHIEVED. IN THE MEANWHILE, WHAT YOU REFER TO AS, IN EFFECT, OUR BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES MAY INDEED ADVANCE THE PROCESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE FIXED PROCESS FOR NEGOTIATION.

SO THE ANSWER IS, YOU KNOW, YES IN PART TO BOTH OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q. COMING BACK TO THE QUESTION OF RESOLUTION 338, JUST TO CLARIFY THE U.S. POSITION, DOES THE U.S. BELIEVE THAT THE RESOLUTION IS SELF-EXECUTORY OR THAT NOW THERE IS AN OUTSIDE LINKAGE ESTABLISHED TO THE QUESTION OF A CEASE-FIRE? DO WE ACCEPT THAT LINK NOW?

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A. WE, WE TAKE THE POSITION THAT THE CEASE-FIRE IS IN EFFECT, ALLOWING FOR SOME MARGINAL INTERRUPTIONS. WE WOULD OF COURSE, HAVE HOPED THAT THE RESOLUTION ORIGINALLY PASSED WOULD HAVE BEEN SELF-EXECUTING IN THAT THE SHOOTING WOULD HAVE STOPPED AT THE ACCEPTED HOUR AND THERE COULD HAVE FOLLOWED ON, HOPEFULLY, AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR. YOU KNOW, REGRETTABLY IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THAT WAY. FIGHTING CONTINUED AFTER THE ACCEPTED HOUR. AND NOW, AS I ACKNOWLEDGED VERY EARLY ON HERE, IT IS PRETTY CLEAR THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES NOW OVER HOW YOU WILL EXECUTE OR RELEASE THE PRISONERS ON BOTH SIDES AND WHETHER THE FORCES ON THE GROUND WILL INDEED GO BACK TO THE POSITIONS THEY OCCUPIED ON OCTOBER 22 AT THE HOUR. END QUOTE. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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